

Amendments to the Specification

Please add this paragraph on page 33, after the paragraph ending at line 20,

Materials used as a pre-strained polymer may be selected based on one or more material properties such as a high electrical breakdown strength, a low modulus of elasticity– (for large or small deformations), a high dielectric constant, etc. In one embodiment, the polymer is selected such that it has an elastic modulus at most about 100 MPa. In another embodiment, the polymer is selected such that it has a maximum actuation pressure between about 0.05 MPa and about 10 MPa, and preferably between about 0.3 MPa and about 3 MPa. In another embodiment, the polymer is selected such that it has a dielectric constant between about 2 and about 20, and preferably between about 2.5 and about 12. For some applications, an electroactive polymer is selected based on one or more application demands such as a wide temperature and/or humidity range, repeatability, accuracy, low creep, reliability and endurance. Often, halogenated polymers, such as fluorinated or chlorinated polymers, exhibit a higher dielectric constant than the base polymer. In one example, a high dielectric polyurethane may be made from partially fluorinated urethane monomers.